GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3595
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2004
CONTRACT FOR SETTING UP OF COMMUNITY PHONES
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has entered into a contract with some companies for setting up of community phones in villages with support from USO fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of villages identified for the purpose; and

(d) the time by when the project is likely to be implemented?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to(c) 48,301 villages were identified for setting up of Rural Community Phones (RCPs) with support from Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund. Out of these, office of Administrator USO Fund has entered into agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and M/s Reliance Infocomm Limited (RIL), who emerged as the lowest bidders` for receipt of support from USO Fund, for providing RCPs in 24,794 and 21,459 villages respectively.

(d) As per terms of the agreement entered into by the office of administrator USO Fund, these RCPs are to be provided by September, 2007